

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DPW-01 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 061112Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0697

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6899

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, LA

SUBJECT: TALK WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK

1. I MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS. IN ASSESSING THE GENERAL SITUATION, SISOUK APPEARED TO BE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE OF HARMONY BETWEEN THE PATHET LAO AND THE VIENTIANE SIDE. HE SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE PGNU CONFRONTS HAD BROUGHT THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WAS CONDUCTING THE CABINET MEETINGS IN A VERY EVEN-HANDED AND JUDICIOUS MANNER.

2. SISOUK PARTICULARLY NOTED THE ABANDONMENT BY THE PATHET LAO OF THEIR PREVIOUSLY RIGID AGENDA IN THE JCCIA. THE FORTHCOMING PRISONER EXCHANGE AND THE APPARENT WILLINGNESS OF THE PATHET LAO TO PROCEED TO OTHER QUESTIONS HAS BEEN VERY REASSURING. SISOUK WAS ALSO MOST INTERESTED IN AN AFP STORY WHICH WE HAVE

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NOT YET SEEN REGARDING THE COOL RECEPTION GIVEN

PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG IN HANOI. HE AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE ARE TAKING THIS AS AN INDICATION OF HANOI'S CONCERN THAT PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG'S LOYALTY TO HIS BROTHER AND TO THE CROWN MAY BE UNDERMINING HIS REVOLUTIONARY MILITANCY.

3. SISOUK REPORTED THAT PLANS FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN FAR HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS EARLIER THIS WEEK AND WE AGREED TO REVIEW FAR'S PLANS IN DETAIL ON SEPTEMBER 11.

4. SISOUK HAD JUST COMPLETED A 2-HOUR MEETING WITH MINISTER SOTH PHETRASY REGARDING THEIR TRIPS TO EAST AND WEST FOR ADDITIONAL AID. IN HIS VIEW, PATHET LAO EXPECTATIONS ARE VERY NAIVE AND HE WAS AMUSED AT SOTH'S HAVING INCLUDED SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AS COUNTRIES SISOUK SHOULD VISIT TO SEEK ADDITIONAL AID.
WHITEHOUSE

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